The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

Entered as second-class matter September 30, 1912, at the Post-office at Washington, D. C., under the Act of August 24, 1912.
Acceptance for mailing at special rate of postage provided for in Sec. 1103, Act of October 3, 1917, authorized July 11, 1918.

AGITATE !
EDUCATE !
ORGANIZE !

VOL. 9. NO. 25.
WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 1919.
WHOLE NO. 441.

STRONG LABOR UNIONS MAKE FOR PROSPERITY

Philadelphia, Sept. 13.—A correspondent of the Ledger, writing from San Francisco about conditions there and in Seattle, says:

"The sentiment of San Francisco and Seattle may be expressed today in seven words:

"Organized labor is the hope of America.

"Chambers of commerce, business men, manufacturers and bankers say, almost unanimously, that the normal industrial and labor conditions which prevail at this time in these cities in contrast to the widespread industrial unrest in the middle west and northwest is due to strong labor organizations, directed by conservative and fair leaders of labor.

"There are, of course, others who get blue in the face when they speak about unions, but invariably they are employers directing businesses where the employes are organizing for the first time. They do not want to see the unions 'break into' their establishments, but they are in the minority and the tide is against them. San Francisco is not only organized to the extent of about 80,000 workers, but bank clerks, the editorial writers for the newspapers, school teachers, policemen, janitors, draftsmen, civil engineers, jewelers, clerks and mechanics, clerks in retail shops and opticians are forming unions, assisted by the central labor council of the American Federation of Labor.

"'All of the assistance which has been given to the radicals in this city has been by employers who are fighting organized labor,' said John A. O'Connell, secretary of the labor council, when I talked with him today. 'By fighting employes who wish to join the union they are aiding and abetting the radicals. They do this to keep wages so low that the workers cannot keep body and family together. The agitator comes along and promises direct, quick action. Before long he has a following, whereas if the employes were permitted to organize and bargain collectively there would be no talk of direct action. The labor unions want industrial peace.'

"C. A. Day, secretary of the industrial department of the Chamber of Commerce, who knows more about the views of employers in San Francisco than any other citizen, stated that the strength of the unions and their support by business interests were contributing more than anything else to the industrial tranquility of this city.

"'The unions,' Mr. Day stated, 'are opposed to any disposition of the men to break away from their recognized leaders or violate the agreements which have been made between employer and employe.'

"Business men and manufacturers of the city expressed the same views when I questioned several of them personally, and more than one, including Mr. Day, attributed the present co-operation between employers and employes to the wise leadership of the unions. More than one man stated that the reason labor conditions in this city were so much better than those in Los Angeles was because employers here almost universally recognize the right of men and women to organize, while in the southern city there is continuous opposition to organized labor.

"Looking back upon the cities I have visited it appears generally true that in those municipalities where labor is well organized and directed by the regular, conservative leaders there is less labor trouble than in communities where employers and organized labor are at loggerheads."

PLANS TO END STRIKE.

Albany, N. Y., Sept. 13.—A movement to prevent strikes in this state has been started by Gov. Smith, who has called a conference of representative employers of labor, employes and public-spirited men and women to be held in the executive chamber at noon, Tuesday, Sept. 16, for the purpose of creating a state labor board. In his letter of invitation, which was sent to about seventy persons, including members of the reconstruction, state industrial and public service commissions, the governor said:

"During the war period the federal government, through the war labor board, was very successful in settling differences between employers and employes. It has been suggested to me by the reconstruction commission that there is urgent need in this state at this time for a similar board. The purposes of this conference will be the preparation of a program and the appointment of a labor board of both employers and employes in an effort to stop strikes and keep the wheels of industry moving."

ARE OUT FOR $1 AN HOUR.

Pawtucket, R. I., Sept. 13.—The union plumbers are threatening to cease work if not granted $1 an hour. The plumbers' association has refused to grant more than 75 cents. Providence plumbers have been on strike for several weeks to obtain $1 an hour rate.

Lawrence, Mass., Sept. 13.—Plumbers and steam fitters have been granted an increase of 10 cents an hour, thereby averting a threatened strike. The settlement carried with it a 44-hour week, 85 cents an hour and $37.40 per week instead of $33.

THINKING AND ACTING.

Kansas City, Kans., Sept. 13.—"There is a surprisingly large amount of union buttons seen among the colored workers since the recent campaign inaugurated by the Amalgamated Meat Cutters and Butcher Workers Union of North America for new members," says the Labor Bulletin. "Like lots of the white workers the colored laboring men are beginning to find out that their real friends are the men they work with every day, and not the politicians and employers."

WON $1 INCREASE.

San Francisco, Sept. 13.—The Material Teamsters' union has secured an increase in wages of $1 per day, the same becoming effective immediately. This brings the wages of material teamsters to $6 and $7 per day, according to the character of the work done.

PEN WORKERS' STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 13.—Nearly 300 fountain pen workers, members of Hard Rubber Turners union No. 16,448, A. F. of L., are on strike for 40 per cent wage increase and 44 hours a week. This action was taken after three weeks' negotiations with the manufacturers of fountain pens.

REDUCED HOURS OF LABOR.

Appleton, Wis., Sept. 13.—The Interlake Pulp company, employing 400 men, has ordered hours reduced from 9 to 8 per day and placed the minimum wage at 50 cents an hour.

JOHN MITCHELL DEAD.

New York, Sept. 13.—John Mitchell died Tuesday afternoon last at the Post Graduate hospital, as the result of an operation for the removal of gall stones. His death was unexpected until Monday when his condition become alarming. Transfusion of blood was resorted to, and his youngest son, Robert, furnished the new fluid. The operation only resulted in a temporary rally. He will be interred at Scranton, Pa.

Mr. Mitchell was president of the United Mine workers from 1899 until 1908. He was also vice-president of the American Federation from 1898 until 1914. On accepting appointment as chairman of the trade agreement department of the National Civic Federation he served his official connection with the labor movement but retained his membership in the United Mine Workers until his death. Since 1915 Mr. Mitchell has been chairman of the New York state industrial commission, and in addition to holding that office filled several other state offices. During his strenuous life he had found time to write several books on economic subjects and the trade union movement. He also devoted a part of his time to expounding labor from the lecture platform and gained considerable prominence in that line.

His wife, a daughter and three sons survive him.

COMMERCIAL TRUSTS ARE MODERN EMPIRES

Washington, Sept. 13.—A new form of business trust, more dangerous to public welfare than those which brought about the enactment of antimonopoly and antitrust laws, is developing in the United States and must be curbed by congress at once, according to testimony given to the House judiciary committee by William B. Colver, member of the federal trade commission.

The meat packing industry is the "classic illustration" of the new combination, Mr. Colver said, the principle of its growth being that those in the combine seek not merely to control their main products and stifle competition, but also to control all by-products of their main manufacture.

The old Standard Oil monopoly is a "two-cylinder trust," and the new development a "1920 model trust," was the comparison, given by Mr. Colver. He strongly recommended the addition of an amendment to both the Clayton antitrust law and the federal trade commission act, as a means of checking the growth of the modern type of commercial empire.

"Compared to the new principle employed, the old Standard Oil trust was not at all effective, but would become so if it were to use the new method."

CLAY WORKERS ORGANIZED.

Kittanning, Pa., Sept. 13, 1919.—Representative of the United Brick and Clay Workers has been actively at work in western Pennsylvania for some weeks past. As a result of his activities three unions have been organized in Kittanning, one each in Jeannette, Shawmut, Dewey, Cowansville, and Pine Furnace. A check-off system has been established and the eight-hour day put into force for the workers at the Kittanning Clay Products company, the Kittanning Brick and Fire [illegible] company, and the Kittanning [illegible] Manufacturing company. The [illegible] of organizing is being vigorously pushed in this section and further results are anticipated.

SNOWBALL MINERS WIN.

Oatman, Ariz., Sept. 13.—Snowball Miners union No. 124 has secured an adjustment of its grievances with the mining companies in this district. The companies have granted the wages asked by the Snowball Miners' union, affiliated with the Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, and the mines are reopening. The advance secured is 50 cents per day and no reductions to be made in wages without 30 days' notice. This establishes a scale of $6 per day for miners and timbermen and $5.50 for muckers and tramers.

UNION SHOP REGAINED.

Vancouver, B. C., Can., Sept. 13.—An agreement has been reached between the Plumbers' Union and their employers which carries with it an increase in wages of $1.20 per day, with double time for overtime. The union shop, which was lost during the recent strike, has been regained. These improvements will give the plumbers of Vancouver a wage of $7.20 for an 8-hour day.

VOTE BONUS TO SOLDIERS.

Madison, Wis., Sept. 13.—Returns from the state covering the vote on the soldiers' bonus bill indicates that the measure was ratified by the voters at a ratio of at least four to one. The measure gives $10.00 per month for every month served by Wisconsin soldiers during the war. The approval of this bill by the voters of the state indicates very clearly their disposition to, in a measure, repay them for the sacrifices they made to establish democracy.

FACTORIES UNIONIZED.

San Francisco, Sept. 13.—The three mercantile box factories have signed the new wage scale calling for rates ranging from $4.25 to $5.25 a day. Over 250 men are affected. The 8-hour day prevails in all the shops. The men formerly worked 8 1-2 and 9 hours.

WANT AN INCEASE.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 13.—Polishers and buffers employed at the Winchester Repeating Arms plant ceased work to enforce a demand for increased wages. It is estimated that the number affected will reach 150.

WHAT ITS PROFITS SHOW.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 13.—General Motors corporation net profits for the first six months of this year were $48,900,800, according to the semi-annual statement just issued by the company.

GET WAGE INCREASE.

Los Angeles, Cal., Sept. 13.—The members of the Beer Wagon Drivers' union have received an increase in wages of $4 per week, to date from August 1.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS' APPEAL BEFORE DISTRICT COMMISSIONERS

Washington, Sept. 13.—Following the drastic order of Commissioner Brownlow notifying all members of policemen's union that unless they immediately severed membership with the union they would be dismissed from the police force, President Gompers secured a conference and appeared before the commissioner to urge the rescinding of the commissioner's order. During the course of his arguments showing why the A. F. of L. issue a charter, President Gompers freely exhibited the obligation administered and furnished copies of all laws governing unions working under a charter issued direct by the A. F. of L. It was revealed that there was nothing in the laws or obligation that would interfere in any way with a policeman doing his full duty as prescribed by the oath he takes when becoming a policeman. During the conference the commissioners were unable to offer any valid or logical cause for the order that had been issued demanding that all policemen immediately resign from the union they had formed, comprising over 600 members.

It has been charged, and not yet successfully denied, that some of the head officials of the police department assented to the police holding membership in the newly-formed union until they learned that they were to be excluded. One of the officials, who is especially charged with giving his approval has absented himself from the city apparently conveniently, to avoid answering to the commissioners and explaining his reasons for approving the organization of the union. The association of policemen that existed previously had been dominated, it is alleged, by the officials of the police department and when these same officials discovered that the new union excluded them and confined its membership to the privates of the force, active antagonism immediately developed and it seems to be apparent that that rule is what promoted the action of Commissioner Brownlow and his associates, and resulted in the issuance of the drastic order which brought on the fight. It is a well-known fact that the policemen of the various cities of the country have been appealing to the A. F. of L. for permission to become members through chartered unions for several years past. Not until the Atlantic City convention was their appeals favorably acted on. Since that date 27 applications for charters have been received and favorably acted on. These new unions show a membership of approximately 2,300, and in some of the cities the membership is 100 per cent. Can it be that the attack on the union in this city is for the purpose of discouraging and preventing the further growth of policemen's unions in such cities as have not yet taken action? While the decision of the commissioners of this city may not have a sinister motive back of it, there are apparently reasonable grounds for reaching such a conclusion.

Following the conference of President Gompers with the commissioners, announcement was made that the order issued by Commissioner Brownlow would be rigidly enforced. Its application made it imperative for all members of the police force (600) to have their resignations in the hands of the police department officials not later than midnight September 1, or consider themselves dismissed, surrendering all their rights in such beneficial features as had resulted by long years of service on the force.

The announcement of that determination following so quickly after President Gompers' conference with the commissioners, the officials of the policemen's union determined to seek redress through the courts and had their attorneys prepare a request for a preliminary injunction that would restrain the enforcement of the commissioners order until a full hearing could be had.

The matter was presented to Justice Ashley M. Gould, of the district supreme court, who promptly issued a preliminary injunction returnable September 11, when a full hearing will be had and it will then be determined whether the relief the policemen ask for will be granted.

In his address to the commissioners on behalf of the policemen, President Gompers said in part:

"Gentlemen, after all, what have the people of the United States been fighting for? What have we been fighting for? Why did we organize this army of four million men? Why have we made sacrifices of food and life; given our money in the drives, loaned our money for bonds, depriving ourselves of many, many of the things that make up the comforts of life? Why? Is it that after we have won a victory against militarism and autocracy and imperialism we shall have the rights which were exercised before taken from us? Autocracy does not merely exist in name, it exists as a fact; it is a state of mind; it is a state of fact. If the working people of the United States, policemen included, had the right before the war to organize and to affiliate with any lawful, honorable, patriotic body of people, surely at the close of the war, when we have won against such great odds, have won a victory that will go down in history, as I take it, of the greatest struggle in the history of the whole world. And out of it, out of the glow, out of the glamor, out of the sacrifice—all of it—there comes the denial of a right, the right to organize, the right to affiliate with a bona fide organization, of labor that has had a continuous and honorable existence for more than 38 years?

"The declaration which you have adopted, the regulation which you have adopted places a stigma on the American Federation of Labor, not upon any other organization. If the commissioners of the District of Columbia can and they do adopt a resolution placing that stigma of making the American Federation of Labor anathema—what will the action be—what impression will it have upon the minds of the employers generally? If constituted authority in the District of Columbia can say to these people, 'You can have nothing to do with the American Federation of Labor,' the only body with which they have been affiliated, then employers will say 'That is the official dictum; that is the judgment of the authorities in the capital of our nation and gives us the cue to follow in a like course.' And we are not deserving of such characterization or of such a stigma.'"

"If governmental authority, if employers as a general rule, will antagonize the American Federation of Labor and by its actions and tendency cripple its efforts, you will have something to deal with—not with us; you will have the men flying where they think they can secure relief, and in each stage of their disappointment they throw themselves anywhere where some relief is promised, either immediate or in the future. For good order, for peace, tranquility, progress, safety, I appeal to the commissioners to rescind that order."

"It is time that we take into consideration the situation which exists throughout the world. In no country on the face of the globe is there such tranquility, such order, such a stabilizing influence exercised by any labor movement as there is by the American Federation of Labor in our country."

"Because these men have become affiliated in their union with the American Federation of Labor, you say to them that they must recede from that position or lose their jobs, be without employment."

"The countries of the world are seething with revolution and revolutionary spirit. As I have indicated, have shown by proof beyond question, that the American labor movement is of a constructive, not of a destructive character, going along within the law and within the rules and within the constitution and the guarantees of the republic of the United States; and when we are engaged in this work—and it is no mean job, let me tell you, gentlemen; and it is not and has not been any mean job to try to stabilize the activities of the people of the United States; and they have great cause for dissatisfaction by reason of the fact that they are made the victims of the greed and avarice commonly known as food profiteering in one form or another; it has not been any easy matter. With the ending of the war, when so large a proportion of the workers of our country were engaged in the production of the things for war, engaged in the production of things for destruction, and now with the armistice and the practical ending of the war, when all that species of industry have come to a full stop, and we, employers and captains of industry and commerce, have not been able to have the judgment or the enterprise to get back to something like normal conditions of industry, and large numbers of our people are unemployed and many of them who are employed are not earning enough wages in order that they may have an opportunity to live at all, and with the increased cost of living in every field of their lives; and then to find that an attempt has been made to organize among them the policemen for the purposes of what? To seek here some relief from those grievances which they are required to bear in the service."

Boston, Sept. 13.—The autocratic action of the police commission of this city has resulted in the police striking. They had formed a union, chartered by the A. F. of L. An order almost identical with that issued by the Washington district commissioners was put into force. Every effort was made to have it modified, but the commissioner was relentless. When the police saw there was no remedy other then the surrendering their membership in the union, they determined to strike. Over 1,300 turned in their badges and maces. The total number on the police force is given at 1,544.

The Record in commenting on the attitude of the commissioner, says:

"The police commissioner appears to be under an unfortunate influence, with sinister consequences. Action upon whatever advice he regards as desirable, he has been unreceptive to the efforts of the mayor's special committee, apparently unable to recognize the fact that this committee is the only voice of the public, and apparently unable to recognize the fact that the public is the one party that must be served in the matter.

"The case of the policemen has at all times been susceptible to amicable adjustment, without a strike. The mayor's special committee has worked to that end, and had presented a workable plan for solution. This plan the commissioner, badly advised, has thrown in the waste basket."

Zanesville, Ohio, Sept. 13.—Members of the police force have organized a union and forwarded their application for a charter. Immediately on receipt of the charter the union will affiliate with the Central Trades and Labor council. The railway mail clerks have also taken similar action.

BUILDING TRADES IDLE.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 13, 1919.—A strike involving approximately 6,000 carpenters, plasterers, lathers, and laborers resulted when the workers failed to reach an agreement with the builders' association. Demands made by the workers were: Carpenters—$10.00 a day, an advance from $7.50; plasterers had been locked out a week previous as result of a demand for increased wages from $9.00 to $10.00 a day; the lathers also asked for $10.00; and the laborers asked for $1.00 additional, making their wage $7.00 per day.

Several of the largest of the building operators agreed to pay the scale and their work continued without interruption. Between 50 and 60 of the members of the builders' association refused to meet the demands of the workers. The other building trades will, in all probability, be also involved if the strike becomes a protracted one. The strikers charged the building material men with refusing to furnish material for such firms as have agreed to pay the increased wages.

MINIMUM WAGE FIXED.

Regina, Saskatchewan, Sept. 13.—The minimum wage for girls and women beginning work in Saskatchewan retail stores has been fixed at $9.00 a week. After three months they are to receive $10.50. During the third three-month period they will get $11.50 and in the last three months of their first year, $13.50. Thereafter the employes are to be deemed experienced, and to receive a minimum wage of $15 a week. The hours of work are to be 48. These were the decisions announced by the Saskatchewan minimum wage board following sittings at Moose Jaw, Prince Albert, Saskatoon, and Regina.

TAILORS WALK OUT.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 13.—Journeymen tailors are on the strike in Spokane, Portland, and San Francisco for practically the same demands as the tailors have presented to employers. Should the demands not be met by September 15, when the old agreement expires, they will also cease work. The demands are: Minimum wage of $44.00 a week for journeymen; $22.00 for apprentices; equal pay for women; 44 hours a week; double time for overtime.

Bremerton, Wash., Sept. 13.—Journeymen tailors won a new wage scale of $36.00 per week.

CONCEDED AN INCREASE.

Baltimore, Sept. 13.—Beginning September 1 all employes of the newspaper composing rooms were given a voluntary increase of wages by the publishers. The day men go from $29 to $35 and the night men go from $30 to $38 per week. The overtime has also been advanced from 75 cents day to $1, and the night overtime goes from 80 cents to $1 per hour.

NEW TEACHERS' UNION.

Paducah, Ky., Sept. 13.—The latest union in this city will be known as the McCracken County Federation of teachers and will work under a charter from the American Federation of Teachers, which is affiliated with the A. F. of L. It is expected that Marshall county will also fall in line with the movement to organize the teachers in this section of the state.

CHOSEN LABOR DELEGATE.

Montevideo, Bolivia, Sept. 13.—Juan Antonio Buero, minister of foreign affairs, has been chosen Uruguayan representative to the international labor conference to be held in Washington this autumn.

GIRLS JOIN UNION; JAILED AT MIDNIGHT

Chicago, Ill., Sept. 13.—A number of young girls, newly organized members of the Optical Workers' union, were the victims of the most flagrant violation of the rights of citizens and union members. It would seem well-nigh impossible that in this twentieth century and in Chicago, a city somewhat alive to labor interests, there could occur such daring defiance of law, to say nothing of human rights, as has been shown by the Optical Manufacturers' association in the attempt to destroy a union of their employes. The vice-president of one of the largest optical firms has taken upon himself all the authority of the chief of police in the handling of the striking optical workers, says the Unionist. Officers of the law were told to make arrests of girl strikers and were instructed to seize them after they had retired for the night. Girls were charged with intimidation, though their only offense was that of joining a union. Three girls who belonged to the union were the victims of this utter disregard of law and order. They were jerked out of bed at midnight and were dealt with by the police as though they were the most desperate criminals. This was done at the instigation of a representative of the Optical Manufacturers' association who directed the police in making the arrests.

ELECTION RESULT.

Albion, N. Y., Sept. 13.—As the result of a referendum vote Carl Bergstrom of this city was elected secretary-treasurer for a term of two years. Tom Toon, of Concord, N. H., and George Wain, of Nashville, Tenn., were elected members of the executive board. A second ballot will be required to determine where headquarters will be located, as a majority vote was cast against Albion, divided between Rockport, Boston and Milford, N. H.

STRIKE ADJUSTED.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 13.—An amicable adjustment has been reached between the contractors and the 1,500 painters and decorators who have been on strike for several weeks. While the new scale is not all the men had recently insisted upon, it will materially help to meet increased living costs.

PAINTERS GAIN $1 A DAY.

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 13.—Painters and Paperhangers' union No. 269 has gained a wage increase of $1 a day, raising the wage scale from $6 to $7 a day. The demands as drawn up by the union were accepted by the employing painters and were signed following the first conference and without any friction.

GET AN INCREASE.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 13.—The motormen and conductors employed by the Scranton Railway company have accepted the offer of an increase of four cents an hour to continue until January 1, and after that date the pay will be five cents. This gives the men 50 cents an hour and a 9-hour day.

PRINTERS GET RAISE.

New Haven, Conn., Sept. 13.—Printers employed in the commercial branch of the printing industry have secured an increase in wages of $1.50 per week. The increase was secured as a result of conferences between representatives of Typographical union No. 47 and the Typothetae.

LOW-SALARIED MEN AND CLERKS SEEK CHARITY

New York, Sept. 13.—New York office men, bank clerks, public employes—men of family who are forced to keep up comparatively high standards of appearance through associations—are becoming objects of charity.

While the garbage men get $10 a day, street car employes from $40 to $50 a week, and other semi-skilled workers garner unprecedented return for their labor, the small salaried pen-and-ink toiler is turning his children over to the New York department of charities because of inability to keep pace with living costs.

Bird S. Coler, commissioner of charities, has shown by facts and figures that prove that unless some assistance is given to the small salaried citizen, either in lower living costs, or higher returns, that the New York charities would be swamped with demands from a class of applicants never before seen inside the doors of the department.

"The subject of pity these days is not the down-and-outer who is forced to ask charity because of drink or like troubles," said Coler. "It is the respectable family man working in our offices, in bank departments, the clerks in big businesses. We can cite a large number of cases where these men, who must keep up appearances in their work, are being gradually forced to the humiliation of public charity.

"It sounds incredible that a man earning $1,400 annually should be forced to give up one of his children. But that is the case. Rents, food costs, prices of everything made it a positive necessity in this case to put that child in an institution.

"There are very few cases on our records for appeals for assistance from skilled manual workers. These trades have made their demands felt and are receiving commensurate wages. It is the clerk and office man who give us our problem.

"The issue has reached the point where I cannot understand why some of these underpaid employes do not join the manual trades."

TROUBLE AVERTED.

Cincinnati, Ohio, Sept. 13.—The threatened strike of the cigar makers has been averted by the employers recognizing the request they made for a 15 per cent increase in their wages as being a just one. The raise in pay approximates closely to $4.00 per week. An aggressive campaign is being waged against such firms as have failed to meet the advanced living costs by granting the 15 per cent.

DONATED TWO FOUNTAINS.

Greybull, Wyo., Sept. 13.—The public spiritedness and generosity of the unionists has been demonstrated by the Central Labor council donating to the city two drinking fountains. It is hoped this action will result in city council adding others at an early date.

WIN UNION RECOGNITION.

Newport, Ky., Sept. 13.—After being idle for 17 weeks, 2,000 employes of the Newport Rolling Mill and the Andrews Steel company have returned to work. The company will recognize the union formed by employes.

WANT 15 CENTS INCREASE.

Ft. Wayne, Ind., Sept. 13.—Sheet Metal Workers' union No. 156 having been refused its demand for an increase of 15 cents an hour ceased work. Some of the smaller employers have met the increase.

WANT INCREASE, NOT BONUS.

Washington, Sept. 13.—When the information was conveyed to the convention of the National Federation of Postal Employes in session in this city that the house had passed a bill granting the postal workers a bonus of $150 instead of acting favorably on the petition they presented demanding an increase of $500 a year, indignation was freely expressed. A delegation was appointed and instructed to go to the capital and protest against the action of house and insist on a hearing before the post office committee.

The convention had previously favored a flat 50 per cent increase in salaries for postal employes with time and a half for overtime, a 44-hour week and 30 days leave. As a result of the action of the house threats were freely made by the delegates that a large number of the postal em[illegible] would resign and seek other [illegible]ployment.

[illegible]esident Gompers spoke before the [illegible]vention and warned the delegates that certain interests were working in concert to crush organized labor in this country. He informed the delegates that a strike should only be indulged in as the last resort, and to proceed with the greatest caution when that was under consideration.

Gilbert E. Hyatt was elected president and Thomas F. Flaherty was re-elected secretary-treasurer. Seven vice-presidents were also selected.

STRUCK TO ENFORCE AWARD.

Toronto, Ontario, Sept. 13.—Two hundred electricians struck to enforce the majority report of the board of conciliation appointed by the minister of labor to investigate the dispute between the Toronto Electric Light company, Toronto Railway company and the electrical workers resulting in a complete tie-up of the street car service.

After a strike of 4½ hours the company agreed to put into force the award of the board of conciliation, the men to receive under its provisions an increase of 16 cents an hour, effective as from July 1.

ARRESTS CONTINUE.

Duquesne, Pa., Sept. 13.—Four organizers of the iron and steel committee, now actively working to organize the iron and steel workers, were fined by Mayor Crawford $10 each for attempting to hold a meeting. They paid their fines under protests. This is the second time organizers have been arrested and fined in this city on the same charge recently. A score of persons in the audience were also find $10 each on charges of alleged disorderly conduct.

LONG DEFERRED AWARD.

Scranton, Pa., Sept. 13.—Employes of the French manufacturing company and the Scranton pump works have been notified by the war labor board of an increase in wages, retroactive to January 1 last. The dispute was submitted 11 months ago. The award gives the men an 8-hour day and 10 cents an hour increase, while the retroactive feature will bring about $150 in back pay.

MOVIE MEN GET MORE PAY.

Minneapolis, Minn., Sept. 13.—The movie picture house proprietors in this city and St. Paul have made concessions that proved acceptable to the movie picture operators. The new wage rates represent an advance of 20 per cent over the previous pay received.

WANT 8 HOURS AND $6 A DAY.

Rock Island, Ill., Sept. 13.—Molders employed by the Rock Island Tool company ceased work when their demand for an 8-hour day and $6 per day was refused. The company had previously enacted a 9-hour day.

PRESIDENT GOMPERS' FATHER DEAD AT 94

Washington, Sept. 13.—Saul Gompers, father of Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, died Monday at his home in Dorchester, Mass. The furneral will be held Sunday in New York.

Mr. Gompers was 94 years of age. Several years ago his eyesight began failing and for two years he has been totally blind. He was born in Holland, removing to England, where Samuel was born. He came to this country about 57 years ago. He was a cigarmaker by trade. Three sons and a daughter survive.

During the past ten months President Gompers has suffered the loss of his daughter Sadie, his wife was stricken with an illness that has become permanent and he himself met with an accident from which he had a narrow escape from death.

UNIFORM WAGE RATE FOR NORTHWEST COAST

Vancouver, B. C., Can., Sept. 13.—Providing a uniform scale for Washington, Oregon and British Columbia ports for the first time in northwest history and granting increases up to 15 cents an hour on straight time work and 30 cents an hour on overtime work, a new agreement has been signed by representatives of the Northwest Waterfront Employers' union and the Pacific Coast Council of the International Longshoremen's union. The agreement is retroactive to August 12. This is the first time a uniform agreement has ever been signed by waterfront and longshoreing interests covering the leading northwest ports. The list includes Seattle, Tacoma, Portland and Astoria, Victoria and Vancouver, B. C. The agreement is to continue indefinitely, or until cancellation on 30 days' notice given by either side.

The new scale is as follows: Longshoremen on coastwise and deep sea work, 90 cents an hour straight time and $1.35 an hour overtime; truckers, 80 cents an hour straight time and $1.20 an hour overtime; lumber handlers, 95 cents an hour straight time, and $1.40 an hour overtime.

The new agreement recognizes the principle of collective bargaining. Joint grievance committees will investigate all grievances, and, if they cannot agree, the question will be submitted to arbitration and the decision of the arbitrator will be binding on both parties.

THEATRICAL STRIKE ENDS.

New York, Sept. 13.—The strike of the actors and actresses has been adjusted. Agreements have been reached that will insure better protection and eliminate many of the grievances that existed in the profession for years and were continually getting worse. All the theaters have been opened and the Actors' Equity association has certainly made good in its first effort to elevate the standing of its members. The association is not unmindful of the great assistance rendered by the other unions employed in and around the theaters. The adjustment of the trouble in this city has also resulted in the actors in other cities affected resuming cordial relations with the managers.

IS NOT A CANDIDATE.

Spokane, Wash., Sept. 13.—William Short, president of the state federation of labor, will not be the candidate of the triple alliance for governor of the state. He declared emphatically that he would not listen to the importunities of labor all over the state to run for the highest executive office.

"My duty clearly is to labor," said Mr. Short. "In this crisis in the world's history it is paramount that I remain at the helm of labor in this state. I have the confidence of the progressives in the labor movement as well as the conservatives, and I shall not turn from my obvious duty to run for political office."

MUTUAL DISCUSSION.

Oakland, Cal., Sept. 13.—The California State Typothetae held a three-day convention in this city. During the progress of the convention representatives of the printing crafts met the delegates of the typothetae and discussed questions of mutual interest, being the first time a meeting has been held for such a purpose. The unions and the typothetae named committees of three each to work out a system of [illegible] that will prove mutually beneficial to both sides.

SHEET METAL STRIKE.

Detroit, Mich., Sept. 13.—Negotiations had been pending for some time previous to September 2 between the sheet metal workers and their employers for an increase in wages to $1.00 per hour. Failing to reach an understanding, the men ceased work. As a result of that action a number of the larger firms in the city have reached a settlement with their men. A number of the smaller concerns are still holding out against the increase.

NEW UNIONS FORMED.

Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 13.—General Secretary-Treasurer John J. Pfeiffer, of the United Leather Workers' International union, reports the following new unions formed during August:

No. 71, Philadelphia, Pa. (Tannery workers' sorters.)

No. 63, Girard, Ohio. (Tannery workers.)

No. 83, Portland, Ore. (Travers' goods workers.)

No. 93, Johnstown, N. Y. (Tannery workers.)

CONTINUE PICKETING.

Detroit, Ohio, Sept. 13.—In a hearing on the injunction suit to show cause why picketing should not be abolished, Judge Killets ordered that picketing could be continued the same as before the order was issued to show cause. This is looked upon as a temporary victory for the men who are still making the fight in this city.

STRIKE AVERTED.

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Sept. 13.—A strike of bricklayers was averted by the contractors when they agreed to make a concession that gave the men an increase of 20 cents an hour and signed an agreement for two years, fixing wages at $1 per hour.

CHEMICAL SOCIETY PRES. FAVORS LABOR

Philadelphia, Sept. 13.—A new alliance between labor and science as a solution of some of the economic difficulties of today was proposed by Dr. William H. Nichols, president of the American Chemical Society, in his annual address at the public meeting of the society in this city. Doctor Nichols said that the American Federation of Labor could depend on the co-operation of the chemical society in backing up a broad program of scientific and technical research by the government as a matter of major importance to the national welfare. This program was urged by the Federation of Labor in a resolution adopted at the recent convention at Atlantic City. The offer was considered significant as coming from Doctor Nichols, who is president of the General Chemical company of New York, which employs thousands of men in its 15 large plants in the United States.

"I hope and believe," said Doctor Nichols, "that this matter, coming as it does from a new direction, will be seriously considered by the proper authorities. Its urgency is thoroughly appreciated by the workers on whose efficiency so much depends.

"This opens the way to a scientific solution of vital questions about which there have been fundamental differences of opinion based largely upon the point of view. Many hold that labor is a commodity which it was to their best interests to get the most of for the least money, while others believed that labor was the sole source of all wealth and that the fewer hours' work, the smaller the output of those hours, the better it would be, somehow or other, for the laboring classes. "I have cited the extreme views for purposes of illustration, realizing that somewhere between the two would be found the great body of all reasonable and thoughtful men.

"Many of the fundamental truths concerning labor and its conditions would never be discovered by the scientist per se because he has not had the benefit of practical preparation. Let our friends of the American Federation of Labor not be content with what the government can do in the line of their resolution, good as it has been and will be, but let them start a carefully planned series of researches themselves and follow them up until the truth stands revealed. They can depend upon the assistance of this great society."

WOODCARVERS' ADVANCES.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Sept. 13.—The International Woodcarver, official organ of the Woodcarvers' association, reports the following wage increases: Syracuse branch secured an advance of 10 to 18 cents per hour; Detroit branch raised wages 15 cents an hour, making the wages 90 cents and $1; Minneapolis and St. Paul branch received increases, as result of a strike, of 5 cents an hour on August 15, 5 cents October 1, and 5 cents January; San Francisco branch raised rates from $6 to $7 per day; New York branch also secured an advance of $1 a day; Montreal branch was conceded an advance of 20 per cent, bringing wages up to 75 cents an hour; Chicago branch secured a minimum of 85 cents per hour; and Rochester branch advanced rates 15 cents per hour.

WIN AFTER HOT CONTEST.

Montreal, Can., Sept. 13.—Striking employes at the Canadian Vickers shipbuilding plant have won a big victory over this concern, which has been vigorous in its opposition to organized labor. Wages of the basic trades are advanced 7 cents an hour, making a 75 cent minimum. Laborers are advanced from 35 cents an hour to 45 cent minimum and the 47 hour work week has been established. The company spent large sums of money to defeat the strikers, and when the latter won the local press made sparse mention of the incident.

PRINTING SHOPS IDLE.

Seattle, Wash., Sept. 13, 1919.—With few exceptions, the commercial printing plants were closed as a result of the printers demanding a uniform wage of $7.00 for seven hours work per day. They had previously received $6.00. The pressmen, press assistants, and bookbinders are also involved in the strike and are demanding improved conditions equaling the increase asked by the printers. The women bookbinders are demanding an advance from $21.00 to $28.00 per week. Nine of the leading offices of the city have agreed to the demands of the printers.

NEW WAGE RATE SECURED.

Superior, Wis., Sept. 13.—Union tailors have settled with their employers without a strike and secured a satisfactory new wage rate. The union secured also a change in the system of work which eliminates piece work and hereafter, they will be paid overtime for work in excess of 8 hours. The wage rate for coatmakers varies from $27.00 for helpers to $30.00 per week for operators. Vest makers and pants makers will receive $27.00 per week for first class men and women, and $17.00 is the minimum. Bushelmen receive $22.00 to $30.00.

FATHER FIRES SON.

Riverside, N. J., Sept. 13.—John Miller, jr., son of the head of the Keystone Watch company, who went into the factory to "learn the business from the bottom up," was fired by his father, following a walkout of 1,000 of the company's employes, whom he is alleged to have aided in unionizing. Miller, who has been interested in unions ever since he put on overalls, is said to have been instrumental in organizing more than 70 per cent of the employes.

LADIES' TAILORS STRIKE.

New York, Sept. 13.—Six thousand members of the Ladies Garment Workers' union are on strike for reduced hours and increased pay. About 1,000 of this number will soon return to work, as offers of settlement have been received from 100 firms. Their demands include the 44-hour week, a minimum of $50 to tailors, $40 to machine helpers, $25 to female helpers and $45 to alteration tailors.

STRIKES MUST BE LEGAL.

Fort Collins, Col., Sept. 13.—At the convention of the Colorado state federation of labor the delegates came down hard on the gentry who ignore trade union laws. The convention unanimously declared where the preliminaries of a strike do not include observance of the union's laws no support by the state body will be forthcoming.